

I was disheartened to hear about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary so close to the election. This decision clearly demonstrates the inherent drawbacks of media consolidation.

Sinclair is allowed to use the public airwaves at no cost to them. By virtue of that fact, they are obligated by law and responsible for serving the public interest. However, when large companies control the airwaves, we will begin to see the influence of special interest groups in the programming. Consequently, viewers will begin to see programming influenced by special interest groups and the airwaves will be saturated with programs, like "Stolen Honor," which challenge our notion of democracy. If "Stolen Honor" is aired, I feel that Sinclair should consider airing a pro-Kerry program shortly after, so that viewers will be fully educated about this candidate. Their responsibility to the viewers should be reflected in their programming to ensure that their consumers are able to make better decisions about issues important to them.

Sinclair's actions are a tangible example of why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Thank you.